



## State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

### Red Cross Month

**WHEREAS**, the Red Cross has touched many lives in Rhode Island, as well as across the country and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, during Red Cross Month, we thank those who contribute to the mission of the Red Cross, whether through time, money or blood, and we invite others to support the Red Cross in helping people in need down the street, across the country and around the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the Red Cross is synonymous with helping people, and has been doing so for more than 130 years; and throughout the past year, the Red Cross launched hundreds of disaster relief operations in the United States to help people affected by fires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes; and

**WHEREAS**, the Red Cross also supported major international disasters, including the Japan earthquake and tsunami response, while continuing its work on the 2010 Haiti earthquake response and recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, in Rhode Island, the Red Cross works tirelessly through its fewer than 15 employees and more than 1,000 volunteers to support us when disaster strikes, when someone needs life-saving blood, or the comfort of a helping hand; and it provides 24-hour support to members of the military, veterans and their families, and provides training in CPR, aquatics safety and first aid; and

**WHEREAS**, in Rhode Island, the Red Cross responds to more than 200 local disasters each year, from residential fires to major incidents like Tropical Storm Irene that affected people across our state; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 the Red Cross taught more than 20,000 Rhode Island residents important life safety and preparedness skills and helped to maintain links between 173 Rhode Island military families and their loved ones serving overseas; and

**WHEREAS**, for nearly 100 years, United States presidents have called on the American people to support the Red Cross and its humanitarian mission; and our community depends on the American Red Cross and because it is not a government agency, the Red Cross depends on support from the public to continue its humanitarian work; and this is especially important in these challenging economic times – which impact the Red Cross and many people in our community and across the nation; and

**THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee**, Governor of the State of Rhode Island, do hereby proclaim March 2012 as Red Cross Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great  
seal of the State of Rhode Island  
and Providence Plantations,  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis  
Secretary of State